

June 12, 1954

Dr. Wacław Szybalski
Institute of Microbiology
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, N.J.

Dear Wacław:

I have had a chance to talk with Tom about transferring his fellowship to Rutgers, and we are all agreed that this is a worthwhile proposal, especially as he has already been here almost two full years and has, by now, probably gotten as much as he is likely to.

His immediate plan, as he may be writing to you, is to take vanNiel's course at Pacific Grove this summer, beginning in about a week and ending late in August. I have suggested that he take, and hope he will, a week or two vacation in California, and return here about the middle of September. Then we want to finish up some loose ends in the work he is doing now. This means he should be ready to transfer to you about November 1. Would this be convenient for you? I am sure there will be no difficulty whatsoever in transferring his fellowship which runs, I believe, until August 31, 1955. Meanwhile, I hope you will be exploring the possibilities of a further appointment, either from the Institute or from grant funds.

Judging from my talk with Waksman, it will not be necessary to pretend any particular interest on Tom's part in actinomycetes. This is no longer my own business, but I would imagine that he would be interested at least as a start, to renew the work on the genetics of drug-resistance that he started with you. We^{*} were also talking of the desirability of a concerted attack on recombination in megaterium, for which Tom's background ought to qualify him very well, both in regard to the isolation of mutants and the crossing. I hope and expect that Tom will have time to finish up the loose ends of his work here— nothing could be more irritating than have a person come into your laboratory still distracted by the obligations and scraps of his previous position. But he will be having an excellent opportunity this summer to get away from the lab. routine and get some perspective on what he would want to do next.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

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